

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response provides policy, guidance and direction for the Agency's emergency response and waste programs. They develop guidelines for the land disposal of hazardous waste and underground storage tanks. They provide technical assistance to all levels of government to establish safe practices in waste management. They administer the Brownfields program which supports state and local governments in redeveloping and reusing potentially contaminated sites. They also manage the Superfund program, which responds to abandoned and active hazardous waste sites and accidental oil and chemical releases. Finally, they encourage innovative technologies to address contaminated soil and groundwater.

As part of the Policy Analysis and Regulatory Management Staff in the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Management (OSWER), the Science Team provides support to all OSWER programs in developing science-based guidance and policies. Specific projects vary over time, depending on technological developments and the needs of specific programs. Examples of current and past projects include:

- Development of guidance regarding the assessment and remediation of vapor intrusion at Superfund sites
- Assessment of the impact of the increasing use of nanomaterials in consumer products and site remediation on OSWER programs.
- Assessment of the utility of new methods and technologies (for example in toxicology, exposure modeling, environmental modeling, etc.) for improving OSWER risk assessments
- Support for high priority scientific actions, for example, forming and leading a cross-Agency Workgroup in responding to a Congressional request to evaluate the potential ecotoxicity of elevated selenium concentrations in Tennessee rivers and streams following the Kingston coal ash spill
- Development of novel models using primary data to assess the potential risk from exposure to asbestos

They would be very interested in working with a trainee to develop a project of mutual interest that could be completed within the 2-3 month time frame of the KC Donnelly Externship.

For more information please contact:

Kathleen Raffaele, Ph.D.
Senior Science Advisor
Policy Analysis and Regulatory Management Staff Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
(OSWER) U.S. EPA
Telephone (202) 566-0301
Raffaele.Kathleen@epamail.epa.gov